

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) A valve body to be connected to a conduit with a malleable sleeve for controlling the flow of fluids there through, the valve body comprising:

an inlet and an outlet formed in the valve body;

a first coupling integrally formed with the valve body at the inlet;

a second coupling integrally formed with the valve body at the outlet said first and second couplings have an outer diameter that is substantially equivalent to an outer diameter of said conduit, said first and said second couplings being of one-piece construction with said valve body;
and

at least one of said couplings sized to receive said malleable sleeve.

Claim 13 (original) The valve body of claim 12 further including a flow control mechanism located therein.

Claim 14 (original) The valve body of claim 13 wherein the flow control mechanism is a ball valve.

Claim 15 (original) The valve body of claim 14 wherein the ball valve is a top entry ball valve.

Claims 16-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (currently amended) The valve body of claim 12 wherein at least one of said first and second couplings is annealed, thereby preventing said coupling from cracking.

Claim 19 (original) The valve body of claim 12 wherein said valve body and at least one of said first and second couplings are annealed.

Claim 20 (currently amended) A valve for the interception of fluids comprising:

a valve body with at least one opening for an input and one opening for an output;

a first tubular coupling attached to the body at said inlet and a second tubular coupling attached to the body at the outlet, said first and second couplings have an outer diameter that is substantially equivalent to an outer diameter of said conduit;

at least one of said tubular couplings sized to be inserted into a sleeve capable of receiving a tubular conduit;

said sleeve being malleable around the selected one of said tubular couplings and around said tubular conduit to form a connection of the tubular conduit with the valve body.

Claim 21 (original) The valve of claim 20 wherein the first and second tubular couplings are integrally formed with the valve body.

Claim 22 (original) The valve of claim 20 wherein the valve body further includes a flow control mechanism.

Claim 23 (original) The valve of claim 22 wherein the flow control mechanism is a ball valve.

Claim 24 (original) The valve of claim 23 wherein the ball valve is a top entry ball valve.

Claims 25-26 (cancelled).

Claim 27 (original) The valve of claim 20 wherein said first and second couplings have an inner diameter that is substantially equivalent to an inner diameter of said conduit.

Claim 28 (currently amended) The valve of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first and second couplings is annealed, thereby preventing said coupling from cracking.

Claim 29 (original) The valve of claim 20 wherein said valve body and at least one of said first and second couplings are annealed.

Claim 30-32 (cancelled)